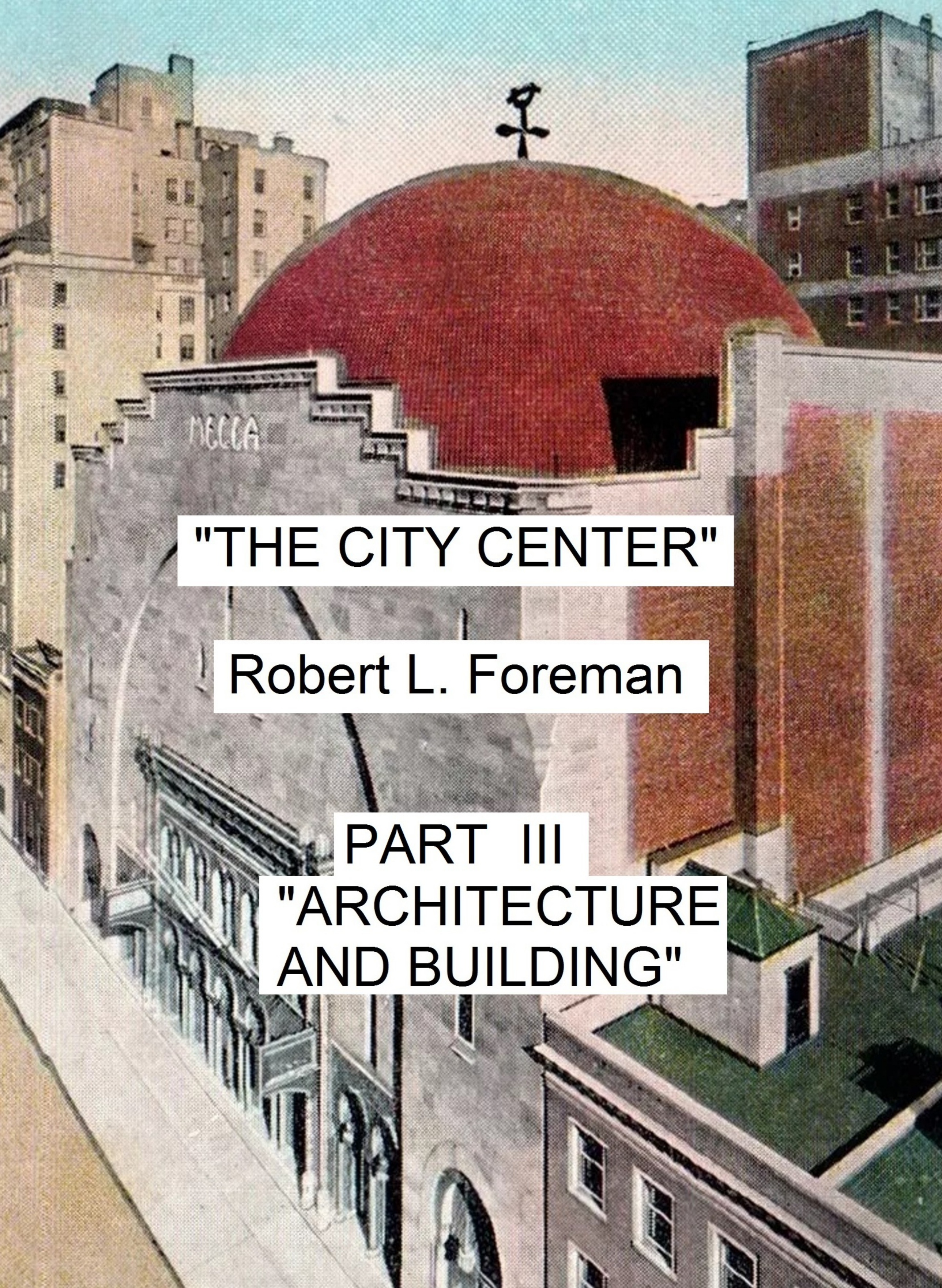



# "THE CITY CENTER"

## Robert L. Foreman

## PART III
## "ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING"

# EXCERPTS FROM

# ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING

# FEBRUARY, 1925

COURTESY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
AVERY LIBRARY

MAR 6 1925

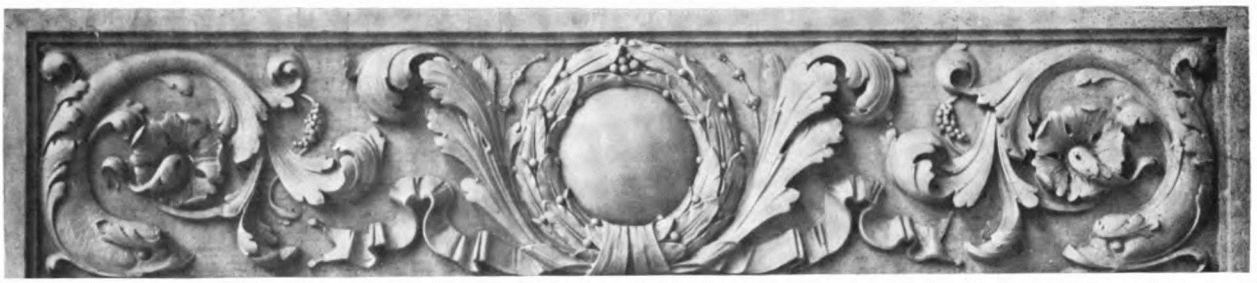
UNIVERSITY AVERY

*February*

# ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING

PUBLISHED BY THE WILLIAM T. COMSTOCK COMPANY NEW YORK

30c A COPY $3.00 A YEAR



Volume LVII

CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1925

Number 2


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cover | **MECCA TEMPLE, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased).<br>Clinton & Russell, Successors. | |
| Frontispiece | **AUDITORIUM, MECCA TEMPLE, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased).<br>Clinton & Russell, Successors. | |
| Text Pages | **MECCA TEMPLE** | 11 |
| | **WALLACH BROTHERS' STORE** | 12 |
| | **SACRED HEART CHURCH** | 12 |
| | **FINCHLEY BUILDING** | 13 |
| | **STATEN ISLAND SAVINGS BANK** | 14 |
| | **COLONY THEATRE** | 19 |
| | **DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND APPLIANCES:** | |
| | SQUEEZING THE WASTE OUT OF INDUSTRY | 15 |
| | ELEVATOR SAFETY | 15 |
| | 25/32 "STANDARD" BOARDS FAVORED | 16 |
| | SUPPLEMENTING USE OF ELECTRIC HEATERS | 16 |
| | AUTOMATIC DOOR OPERATING DEVICE | 17 |
| | THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE | 17 |
| | CHINESE BUILDING | 18 |
| | **WESTBROOK APARTMENTS** | 20 |
| Plates | **MECCA TEMPLE, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased).<br>Clinton & Russell, Successors. | 25-28 |
| | **WALLACH BROTHERS' STORE, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Starrett & Van Vleck, Architects. | 29 |
| | **SACRED HEART CHURCH, JERSEY CITY, N. J.**<br>Cram & Ferguson, Architects. | 30-33 |
| | **FINCHLEY BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Beverly S. King, Architect. | 34-37 |
| | **STATEN ISLAND SAVINGS BANK, STAPLETON, S. I.**<br>Delano & Aldrich, Architects. | 38-39 |
| | **COLONY THEATRE, NEW YORK CITY**<br>Eugene DeRosa, Architect. | 40-43 |
| | **WESTBROOK APARTMENTS, BUFFALO, N. Y.**<br>North, Shelgren & Swift, Architects. | 44 |
| Dwelling House Series | **HOME OF MRS. CARL GANTER, WABAN, MASS.**<br>Robert L. Stevenson, Architect. | 1 |
| | **ENGLISH COTTAGE IN KENSINGTON PARK, BERKELEY, CAL.** | 2 |
| | **BUNGALOW IN ELMWOOD PARK, BERKELEY, CAL.**<br>Fowler Mallett, Architect. | 3 |
| | **DESIGN OF STORY AND A HALF HOUSE**<br>William F. Silliman, Architect. | 4 |



**ARCHITECTURE and BUILDING**

ESTABLISHED 1882

**Published Monthly by THE WILLIAM T. COMSTOCK COMPANY, 23 Warren Street, New York**

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT—D. R. GIMBEL, *Manager*

Date of Publication, the 15th of the Month. Copy for new Advertisements and Changes in Standing Advertisements must be received before the 5th of the Month of Issue.

*Subscription:*

**$3.00 a year in advance for United States and Possessions, Mexico and Cuba Canada, $3.50, and other countries, $4.00. Postage prepaid.**

TRADE SUPPLIED by the AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY and its BRANCHES

*London Agents*—WM. DAWSON & SONS (Ltd.)
Cannon House, Bream's Buildings, London, England


**Copyright, 1925, by The Wm. T. Comstock Co.**

Entered as second class matter April 4, 1911, at the Post Office at New York under the Act of March 3, 1879

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MECCA TEMPLE, NEW YORK CITY

Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased)
Clinton & Russell, Successors

**JAMES STEWART & CO., Inc.**

*BUILDERS*

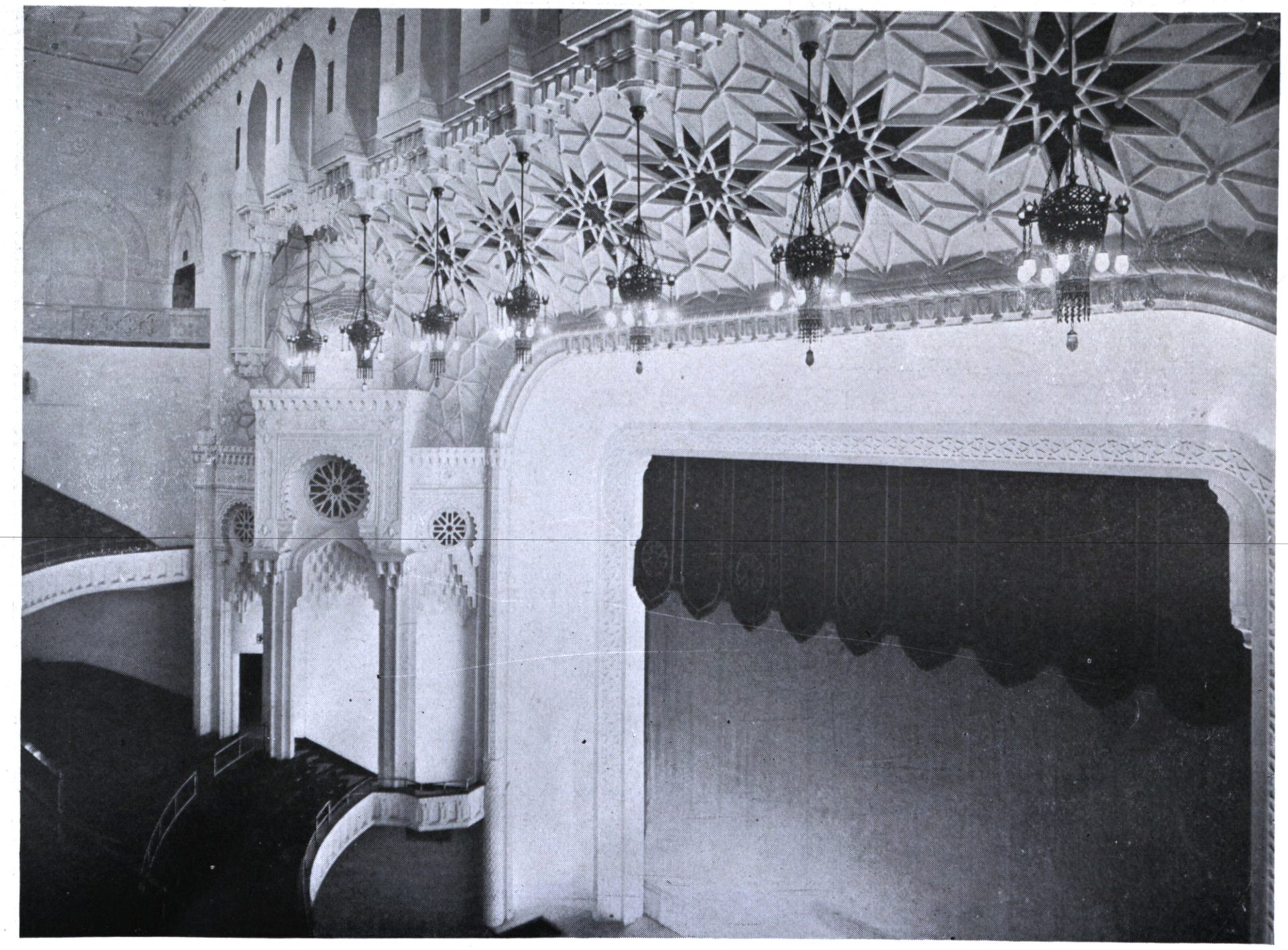
17 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK

Chicago Saint Louis Washington

Advertisements—When writing Advertisers please mention Architecture and Building.

**AUDITORIUM, MECCA TEMPLE, 133 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.**
**Harry P.** Knowles, Architect (Deceased).
Clinton & Russell, **Successors.**

LOBBY VIEW



THE AUDITORIUM, MECCA TEMPLE, 133 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

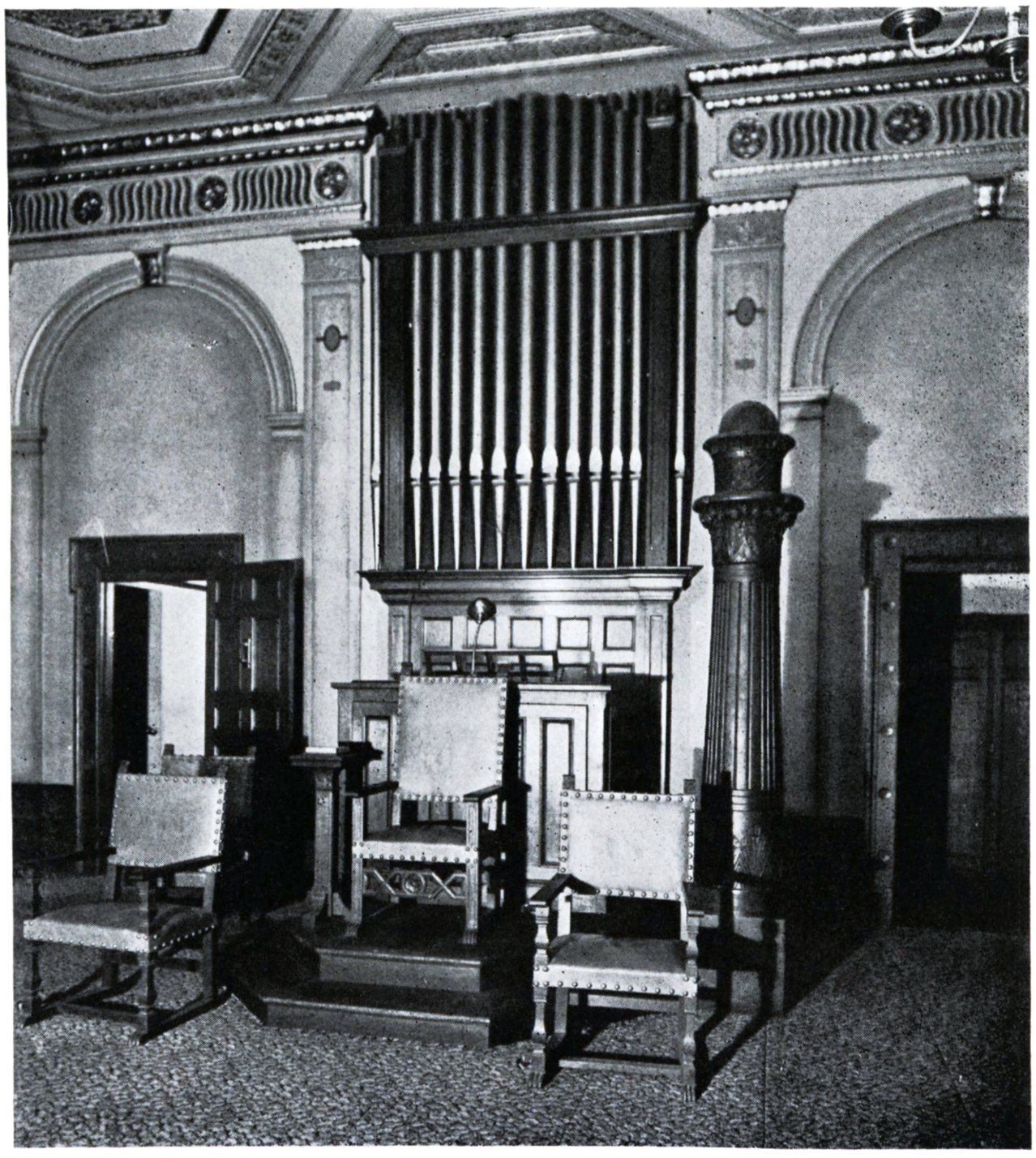
Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased).
Clinton & Russell, Successors.

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING. Plate 27.

Built by James Stewart & Co., Inc.; stage rigging—Peter Clark, Inc.; Mercalite enamel and Mercotone flat wall finish—M. J. Merkin Paint Co., Inc.; bronze tablets and brass railings—Penn Brass & Bronze Works; terra cotta work—New York Architectural Terra Cotta Co.; seats—American Seating Co.; special hardware—Ford Hardware Co.—advertisement.

ONE OF THE LODGE ROOMS.

Furniture—The Reischmann Co.—advertisement.



DETAIL VIEW OF ORGAN, MECCA TEMPLE, 133 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

Harry P. Knowles, Architect
(Deceased)
Clinton & Russell, Successors.

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING. Plate 28.

Built by James Stewart & Co., Inc.; organs—M. P. Moller; all wood floors installed by Swanson Company; painting—L. S. Fischl's Sons, Inc.—advertisement.

Brass railings—Penn Brass & Bronze Works, terra cotta work—New York Architectural Terra Cotta Co.; seats—American Seating Co.; special hardware—Ford Hardware Co.—advertisement.

# ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING

A Magazine Devoted to Contemporary Architectural Construction

WILLIAM P. COMSTOCK
Managing Editor

Volume LVII | FEBRUARY, 1925 | Number 2

## MECCA TEMPLE, NEW YORK CITY

**Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased)**
**Clinton & Russell, Successors**

Mecca Temple which was organized in New York City in 1872 with thirteen charter members is the parent temple of the shrine in America and the new mosque on 55th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues which was erected at a cost of two million and a half dollars is a substantial monument to its growth. Terra cotta in colored ornamentation is extensively used in the south front of the building and the terra cotta dome, surmounted by scimitar and crescent, symbols of the shrine, is a prominent feature. Back of the mosque extending through to 56th Street is a twelve-story building in which there are three lodge rooms with offices in the upper stories.

In detail the 55th Street facade shows an interesting use of materials. Indiana limestone in various sized blocks and shades of color forms the great expanse of the wall. A great arched recess forms the central panel and within this is a highly ornamental decorative treatment in tile work of two story height for most of its length which emphasizes the entrance to the mosque. There are five doorways in the center panel and two to either side, all surmounted by horseshoe arches in Moorish pattern. Two larger archways flank this central panel to either side and in their construction an elaborate use of colored tiling is made. The elaborate mosaic of tile is brought out in brilliant colors, salmon, blue, green and buff with white tracery. Doors are all of bronze and there are Moorish bronze lanterns between the openings. The dome above the temple is of a deep buff roofing tile and the finial ornament is in bronze.

The 56th Street front has lower stories of limestone with upper walls of grey brick, limestone and terra cotta trim. The design suggests a Moorish origin but it is a subdued treatment, making no use of strong colors and emphasizing the strong vertical lines. The central portion where the lodge rooms occur has a large wall space unpierced by windows and the arrangement of the windows in the design forms a frame to this central panel. The doors in the limestone base story are of bronze and there are six bronze lanterns spaced along the front between the openings.

The interior of the mosque in the form of a large auditorium with two balconies is Moorish in design and has numerous interesting ornamental details. The white interior in its present undecorated state is rather striking in effect revealing the details of its mosaic ornament. The illumination by suspended Moorish lamps is an attractive feature. The approaching lobby is richly decorated with travertine walls, richly colored tile door casings and equally brilliant ceiling with solid colors of blue, red and yellow. The lodge rooms are finely done and interesting but do not possess the unusual features of design which characterize the mosque.

In planning the combination of the large auditorium with accommodation for lodge rooms and offices in a united structure was restricted by the building regulations so that to secure the needed combination really required two adjoining structures and this arrangement is entirely evident in the design. The auditorium, with its great seating capacity of over 4,000, occupies that half of the plot which faces on 55th Street and it is separated by a fire wall from that portion of the building which faces on 56th Street, in which are located the lodge rooms and offices with separate approach from that street.

The auditorium has its back wall to the north so that the division wall between the structures provides the back wall of the stage. The exits from the auditorium all open to 55th Street and the vestibule is a long narrow area extending nearly the width of the auditorium so that the aisles and balcony approaches all open through the theatre to the street with ample exit capacity.

There is a service driveway entrance at the west side of the building which connects through to 56th Street. This also furnishes an approach to the large basement room which is available for a display room, as well as for entertainments and banquets. It may even be used as an automobile show room by the use of the large elevator which rises to the stage level of the auditorium and gives communication to the lower levels.

The portion of the building facing on 56th Street of twelve-story height houses the lodge rooms and offices. The first story contains a large reception room with an adjoining office and a foyer approaching the elevators which are placed towards the west side of the building. The location of the lodge rooms, each two stories in height, is evident in the exterior design and these have at the ends anterooms and preparation rooms placed in two levels so that there is a mezzanine story for each of the three lodge stories. In the upper portion of the building space is provided for clerical forces.

The utilization of space with proper economy in a building of such specialization required exceptional concentration on plan study and the solution as worked out in the two adjoining units seems a satisfactory one.

---

The designing of the Mecca Temple, New York City, was by Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased); Clinton & Russell, Successors, and the

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

building was built by James Stewart & Company, Inc.

The consulting engineer for the steam boiler, heating and ventilating equipments was Werner Nygren. The exterior lanterns were furnished by the Sterling Bronze Co. Terra cotta work was done by the New York Architectural Terra Cotta Company. Lafarge non-staining cement was used. Fireproofing was done by Albert Elmendorf, Inc. Mercalite enamel and Mercatone flat wall finish were supplied by M. J. Merkin Paint Co., Inc. All wood flooring was installed by the Swanson Company. Stage rigging was supplied by Peter Clark, Inc. Music stands and special light units for degree work were supplied by the Universal Electric Stage Lighting Co., Inc. Special hardware was furnished by Ford Hardware Co. Bronze tablets and brass railings were executed by Penn Brass & Bronze Works. Organs were installed by M. P. Moller. Furniture for the lodge room was supplied by The Reischmann Co. Copper work, dome and tile roofing were executed by Sobel & Kraus, Inc. Painting was done by L. S. Fischl & Sons, Inc. Hope's steel casements installed.—Advertisement.

## WALLACH BROTHERS' STORE, NEW YORK CITY

**Starrett & Van Vleck, Architects**

The new store occupied by Wallach Brothers for the sale of clothing on Fifth Avenue between 41st and 42nd Streets is an interesting piece of reconstruction. The building has a frontage of 51 feet on Fifth Avenue and extends at the rear to 42nd Street where it has a frontage of 32 feet. The Fifth Avenue frontage is seven stories in height, but as the stories are higher than the 42nd Street wing, it considerably overtops the six-story structure on that portion of the site. In design the Fifth Avenue elevation makes use of limestone for the first three stories to frame the large window openings. The first story space with the exception of the entrances is occupied by display windows which are carried into a deep vestibule preceding the store entrances. Above a black marble base the window framing is in ornamental bronze and the interior fittings of the windows are in American walnut. The windows in the two stories above are in ornamental iron framing. The four upper stories are in light grey brick with a projecting cornice, bronze finished, at the top.

The store interior is very plainly finished depending for its attractive appearance upon the display cases and their contents. The floors are laid in large squares of mottled black and white rubber tiling. The cases are of American walnut and the walls and ceilings are painted a flat French grey. The lighting fixtures are chain suspended and of the direct diffused illumination type.

---

The builders of the remodeled Wallach Brothers' Store, New York City, were Rheinstein & Haas, Inc. The electrical contractor was George V. Cooper, Inc. Lighting fixtures were supplied by Sterling Bronze Co. Metal furring, lathing and corner bead work was executed by Williamson & Adams. Glass was supplied by Joseph Elias & Co., Inc. Plumbing installation was made by Jos. M. Kandel. Ornamental iron work was done by the Pan-American Iron Works, Inc. Lafarge non-staining cement was used. Elevators were installed by A. B. See Elevator Company, Inc.—Advertisement.

WALLACH BROTHERS' STORE, NEW YORK CITY.
Starrett & Van Vleck, Architects.

Ornamental iron—Pan-American Iron Works, Inc.; Lafarge non-staining cement used; elevators—A. B. See Elevator Co., inc.; plumbing—Jos. M. Kandel.—advertisement.

## SACRED HEART CHURCH, JERSEY CITY, N. J.

**Cram and Ferguson, Architects**

The stone structure of the Sacred Heart Church forms an impressive mass, set well back from the street and placed on a corner. The main building is 68 feet in width with a depth of 170 feet and the distance across the transepts is 100 feet. The seating capacity is 1,260 persons; in addition there is a large crypt chapel which will accommodate more than 500. The narthex has two entrances from the front and one from the side. Above it, is the organ loft overlooking the nave. Stone columns support the shallow clerestory which is not pierced by windows and through the outer walls are a series of high rose windows above the main windows which, combined, well illuminate the interior.

Reinforced concrete is used for the footings, floor systems, stairs, lintels and other structural portions. By the use of metal forms smoothly finished work was obtained. The general construction of the walls

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MECCA TEMPLE, 130 WEST 56TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.
Harry P. Knowles, Architect (Deceased).
Clinton & Russell, Successors.


Built by James Stewart & Co., Inc.; terra cotta work—New York Architectural Terra Cotta Co.; copper work, dome and tile roofing—Sobel & Kraus, Inc.—advertisement.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN